

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

ITEM

19

DECISION

TOPIC Contract with P&N Corporation for Waterfowl Aerial Surveys

Commission approval is requested for a 1 year-service contract with P&N Corporation of Marion, IA. The contract will begin on April 1, 2010 and terminate on May 31, 2010. The total amount of this contract shall not exceed \$46,750. DNR shall have the option to renew this contract long as this contract and any extensions do not exceed a six-year period. This contract will be funded through Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Grant.

Iowa's Canada goose population is monitored annually via a statewide aerial survey. These population estimates are used to determine appropriate hunting regulations each year. Federal regulations also require states to monitor Canada goose populations annually to retain permits to use lethal population control methods in their jurisdictions. The waterfowl surveys in north Iowa are part of the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Evaluation Program, a multi-state effort in MN, SD, ND, and MT to monitor waterfowl population responses to the PPJV habitat restoration and management initiatives. These surveys have been conducted annually since 1993, are part of multi-state cooperative waterfowl population monitoring programs, and provide data that are critical to developing biologically sound wildlife management and harvest programs.

The parties propose to enter into this Contract for the purpose of retaining the Contractor to provide:

1. A helicopter and pilot to conduct the Statewide Canada Goose Survey. The contractor flies a DNR observer to 165 2-sq.-mile plots randomly located across Iowa during April 1–25. Each 2 sq. mile plot is searched for Canada geese at an altitude of 150-200 ft. The survey requires 7 to 8 days (up to 10 hours of flight time/day) to complete. The total flight time for the survey will not exceed 75 hours. The survey starts in the southern Iowa and proceeds north. The survey cannot be conducted in rain or snow or when winds exceed 35 mph.
2. A helicopter and pilot to conduct the north Iowa waterfowl survey. The contractor flies a DNR observer to 35 4-sq.-mile plots in a 10 county area in north Iowa to count ducks and geese on 300 randomly selected wetlands. The survey is conducted twice during May: May 1-10 and May 17-31. Total flight time for both counts will not exceed 50 hours. The survey cannot be conducted in rain or snow or when winds exceed 25 mph.

P&N Corporation was chosen using the competitive bid process. P&N Corporation was chosen for this project because P&N Corporation had the highest overall score in the evaluation process, the Enstrom F28 helicopters they fly have one of the best FAA safety records, they have more power and control than similar sized helicopters in windy conditions, the pilots have extensive experience flying low-level waterfowl surveys, they have several helicopters available to fly, they have GPS navigational systems in their helicopters, they are familiar with all airports in Iowa and surrounding states, the pilots repair and rebuild helicopters and they have flown waterfowl surveys in Iowa since 2002.

Dale Garner, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
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